

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PINT, FR

SUBJECT : LOCAL REACTION TO APPOINTMENT OF R. BARRE AS

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET CHANGES

1. ROGER BOUZINAC, EDITORIALIST IN INFLUENCIAL REGIONAL DAILY NICE-MATIN (MODERATE), COMMENTS THAT AS THE RESULT OF TTHE RECENT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT, THE PRESIDENT HAS SOLIDIFIED HIS POSITION AND HAS A STRONGER CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. RAYMOND BARRE, ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIALIST, SHOWS THAT GISCARD IS CONTINUING TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE NATION'S NUMBER ONE PROBLEM : INFLATION/UNEMPLOYMENT. IN SPITE OF RAYMOND BARRE'S LACK OF POLITICAL EXPERIENCE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WILL BE CHARGED WITH CONSOLIDATING THE PRESIDENTIAL REGIME. SPEAKING OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ANOTHER DIPLOMAT AS F.M. AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY, GISCARD HAS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT THE AFFAIRS OF STATE REMAIN FIRMLY IN HIS HANDS. IN MR. BOUZINAC'S VIEW, ANOTHER IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT WAS THAT OF MR. CHRISTIAN BEULLAC (THE ONLY TECHNICIAN AMONG THOSE NAMED) AS MINISTER OF LABOR. KNOWN AS A VERSATILE NEGOTIATOR, BEULLAC MUST BE CONSIDERED THE KEY MAN IN GISCARD'S NEW CABINET AS ONLY HE CAN CONVINCE THE UNIONS TO HOLD DOWN SALARY INCREASES IN ORDER TO STEADY THE ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO BOUZINAC, PERHAPS

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ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IS THE ABOLITION OF THE POST

OF GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN. IN SO DOING, GISCARD HIMSELF HAS INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO EXPLAIN HIS POLICY DIRECTLY TO THE NATION.

2. GEORGES TABARAUD, WRITING IN PATRIOTE COTE D'AZUR (COMMUNIST) CLAIMS THAT CHIRAC'S RESIGNATION AND THE NOMINATION OF RAYMOND BARRE, CAN BE TRACED TO TWO BASIC REASONS : 1. THE CRISIS WAS BROUGHT ABOUT WHEN GISCARD FOUND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO IMPOSE HIS DISASTROUS POLICY ON THE NATION, 2. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT SITUATION, IT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE THE NATION AN ILLUSION OF CHANGING SOMETHING WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUING TO FOOL THE POPULATION AND TO EXPLOIT THEM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CAPITALISTS. RAYMOND BARRE'S MISSION? "AUSTERITY AND ATLANTICISIM". THIS IS SO EVIDENT THAT EVEN THOUGH THE "PROGRAM" OF THE NEW PRIME MINISTER IS NOT YET KNOWN, BOUZINAC DOES NOT HESITATE TO GUESS IN "NICE MATIN" : "ADOPTION OF RIGOROUS MEASURES WILL BE APPLIED WITHOUT FAIL" AND "SACRIFICES WILL BE REQUIRED". AS YOU CAN SEE, NOTHING IS CHANGED.

MURPHY

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